



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 6, 1998

Mr. John Steiner
Division Chief
Law Department
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1546
Austin, Texas 78767-1546

OR98-0633

Dear Mr. Steiner:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 114019.

The Austin Police Department (the "department") received a request for two audio taped 911 calls. You have submitted to this office as responsive to this request a copy of the 911 tape. You claim that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.¹

Section 552.108 of the Government Code provides in part:

(a) Information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from [required public disclosure] if:

(1) release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime;

....

(c) This section does not except from the requirements of Section 552.021 information that is basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime.

¹We note that the department's request for a ruling from this office is timely. See Gov't Code § 552.301(a) (governmental body must ask for attorney general's decision not later than the 10th business day after date of receiving the written request).

You inform this office that the requested record pertains to a pending criminal investigation. Because the requested information relates to a pending criminal investigation, we conclude that the release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime, and thus, it is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1). *Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

You indicate that you have released the "first page" information. We note that "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime" is not excepted from required public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information is the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. *See generally Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Therefore, we conclude that, except for the front page information, the department may withhold the requested information from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Vickie Prehoditch
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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Ref.: ID# 114019

Enclosures: Submitted documents